

Project Update: September 2010

We have discussed wild habitats and status of *P. wardii* and indigenous orchids with the local staffs and community. Interviews and field surveys have been undertaken in the selected villages near Naing Ngun Area. Overcollection of *P. wardii* has been found, so natural status of *P. wardii* was almost extinct in this area. Increase in local trade (local market and airport, etc.) of *P. wardii* has been noticed due to the high demand generated by its horticultural and medicinal uses. Shifting cultivation practice is one of the major causes for extinction of native orchids. We observed many detached epiphytic orchids around this area.

Awareness meetings and discussions have been undertaken in the surrounding villages during the trips. A rehabilitation plot has been chosen and detached orchids were rescued. Relocation activity with volunteers will be started as soon as possible. Data on other indigenous orchid species were collected and listed.

